

ENQ-37665-Z4J3Q5

Private Bag 632  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Date: 11/12/2019

Level 10, Grant Thornton House  
215 Lambton Quay  
Wellington 6011, New Zealandepa.govt.nz  
+64 4 916 2426

Via: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

## Official Information Act Request

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of 24 November 2019, in which you ask for the following information:

1. *What testing did EPA request of Landcare Research on samples of dead rats and 1 weka from Westport beaches after the 1080 drop in the headwaters of the Buller river?*
2. *Why were there no other species submitted for testing?*
3. *Did the submission request testing for any other disease that could have caused the deaths?*
4. *What were the differential diagnoses?*
5. *What monitoring will EPA do to ensure the long-term safety of the water and the environment from this incident, if there has been no definite cause of this large scale contamination of the environment?*

Your request has been treated as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

### 1. Testing requested of Landcare Research

The EPA did not ask Landcare Research to test the samples. As the request was made by the Department of Conservation (DOC), I recommend that you contact them for this information. DOC has information on their website about the incident at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2019/testing-shows-no-1080-in-rats/>.

### 2, 3, 4: Why were no other species submitted for testing; did the submission request testing for any other disease; differential diagnoses

As the EPA was not involved in the testing, we are unable to provide you with this information. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist). You may wish to contact DOC for this information.

### 5. Monitoring to ensure the long-term safety of the water and the environment from this incident

I recommend that you contact the West Coast Regional Council ([info@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wrc.govt.nz), or 0508 800 118) at first instance for information about monitoring responsibilities within the region.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you have any queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gina de Graaff', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gina de Graaff  
Acting Director

**Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement**